

Pathophysiology of Lumbar Spinal Stenosis

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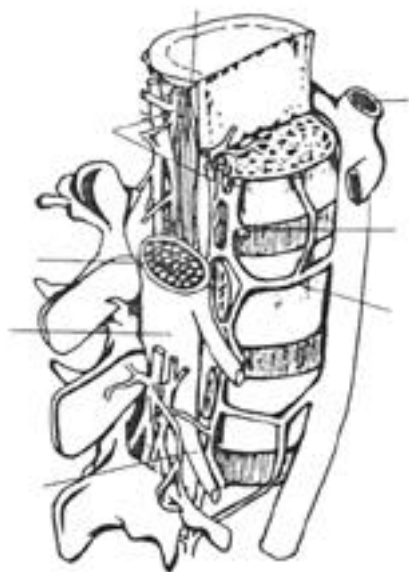


Fig. 1. Venous plexus in the spinal canal and its relationship with great veins

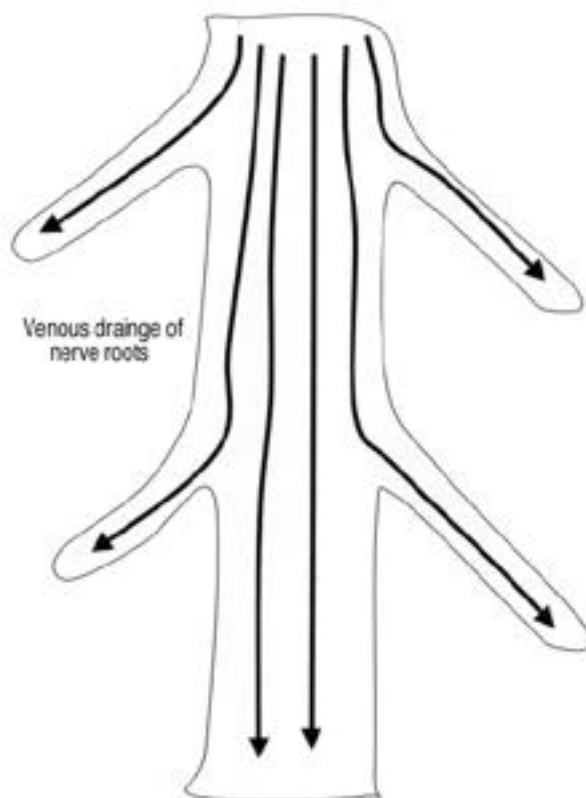


Fig. 2. Diagram showing normal venous drainage of nerve roots. The veins of the roots drain distally to the foramen.

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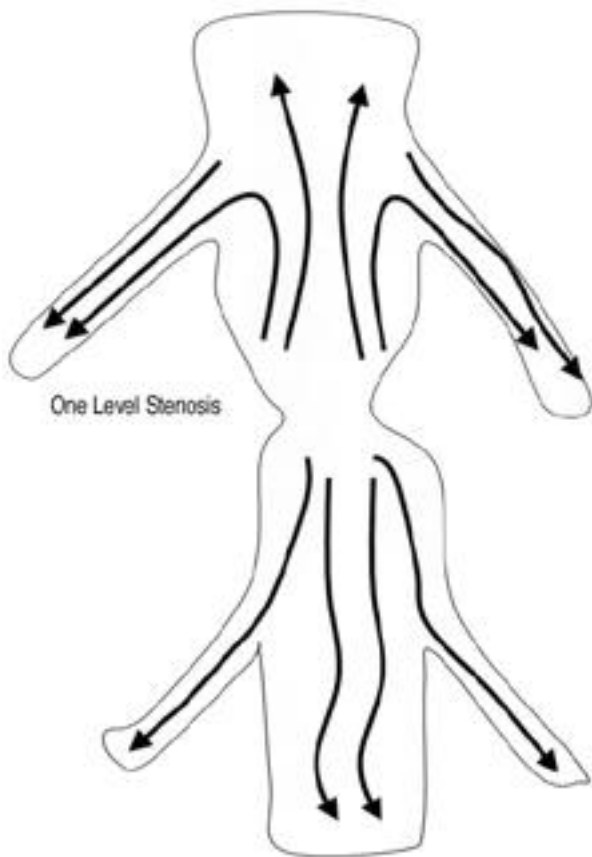


Fig. 3. Diagram showing one level central stenosis. If the veins of the roots blocked, the veins drain proximally to the conus causing no venous congestions.

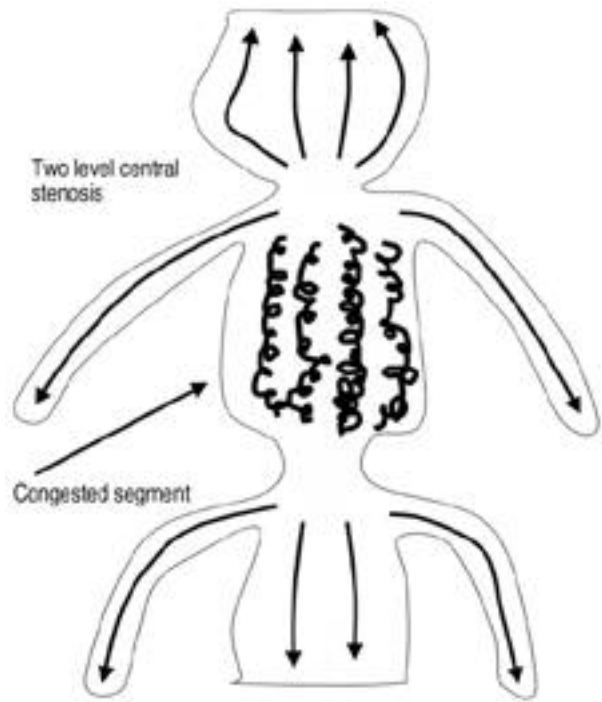


Fig. 4. Diagram showing how a double-level central canal stenosis will cause venous pooling of the cauda equina in the intervening segment (a situation often present in bilateral claudication).

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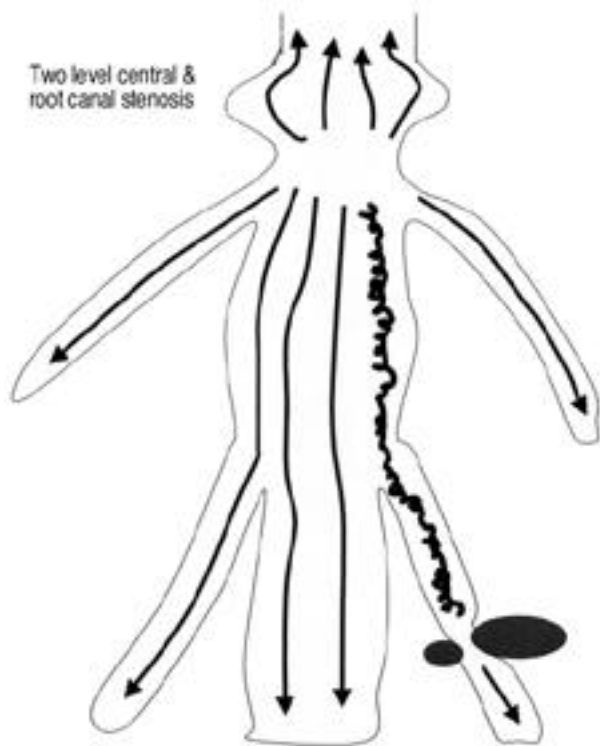


Fig. 5. Diagram showing how a central canal stenosis and a more distal root canal stenosis will cause venous congestion of a single root (a situation often present in unilateral claudication).

(Fig. 4),

(Fig. 5).

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